

McClure Center Summer 2019 Newsletter

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Dear Friends of the McClure Center,

This summer, I was fortunate to visit the Sawtooth Mountains on three separate occasions. These opportunities existed thanks to the tireless work of then-U.S. Representative Jim McClure in the early 1970s. He endeavored to create the [Sawtooth National Recreation Area \(SNRA\)](#), and insisted that federal hearings about this proposal take place in Idaho, not Washington, D.C. The Idaho delegation, which included U.S. Representative Orval Hansen, Senator Frank Church and Senator Len Jordan, advanced a novel land management idea – a National Recreation Area managed by the U.S. Forest Service. On August 22, the SNRA celebrated its 47th birthday of preserving picturesque grazing meadows and traditional working western landscapes against a mountain backdrop. This [Idaho Public Television interview](#) with Congressman Orval Hansen shares additional details.

Research and convenings

Supporting the Governor's Salmon Workgroup

One such occasion to visit the SNRA was en route to a meeting in Salmon, Idaho of the [Governor's Salmon Workgroup](#). The McClure Center is serving as co-facilitator of this yearlong effort, working closely with the Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

The purpose of the workgroup is to bring together a diverse set of stakeholders to develop, through collaboration, shared policy recommendations for Governor Little. These recommendations will assist the Governor as he works with the legislature to shape Idaho policy that ensures abundant and sustainable populations of salmon and steelhead for generations.

The workgroup will meet approximately every six weeks, traveling around Idaho with field visits to see habitat restoration, hatcheries, hydropower, fish ladders and more, as well as hold public comment sessions. We are delighted that University of Idaho College of Law students are engaged in this work through an externship and pro bono experience with the McClure Center and Office of Species Conservation.



Governor's Salmon Workgroup habitat field tour in Salmon, Idaho

Student Engagement

Martin-McClure Ambassadors

In June, the McClure Center welcomed the 2019 Martin-McClure Ambassadors, University of Idaho undergraduate students Olive Swan and Maggie Thornsberry. In partnership with the [University of Idaho Martin Institute](#), the McClure Center hosts Martin-McClure Ambassadors in Boise annually, helping students integrate international experiences with public policy. Both Maggie and Olive focused on international energy policy, researching waste, recycling supply chains and renewables and presented research findings to the City of Boise and Sun Valley Institute Youth Forum. Maggie completed her senior year and majored in international studies. Olive is entering her junior year with international studies and French double majors



Maggie Thornsberry



Olive Swan

Water Policy Intern

This summer, the McClure Center and [University of Idaho Water Institute](#) welcomed the first Water Policy Intern, Samragyee Gautam. The Water Policy Internship is an opportunity for a University of Idaho undergraduate student to explore scientific and public policy research related to water resources management. Sam, a senior double majoring in environmental studies and international studies, helped design a citizen science program for the Spokane River watershed

and conducted research on water policy engagement in the region.



Samragyee Gautam

University of Idaho students on the Hill

In June, the [Martin Institute](#) and McClure Center brought four University of Idaho undergraduate students to Washington, D.C. to shadow U.S. Senator Jim Risch in his role as Senate Foreign Relations Committee chair. The students met with the Senator's staff and committee staff, observed committee meetings and talked with Senator Risch. Experiences like these are transformative for undergraduate students, as they connect classroom learning to U.S. Government processes. We hope to bring another group of students to the nation's capital.



The students and directors pose with Idaho Governor Shoup

Outreach

Bringing Science Diplomacy to the Palouse: Sept. 9, 2019

I am excited to announce that the McClure Center, [University of Idaho College of Science](#) and [University of Idaho Martin Institute](#) are partnering to bring an international expert on science



diplomacy to Moscow. Bill Colglazier, Ph.D., is the former science and technology advisor to the U.S. Secretary of State and a current adviser

to the United Nations. He advances science diplomacy practice and academic training and supports international collaboration and cooperation in science, technology and innovation. On Monday, September 9, 2019, Dr. Colglazier will speak on the Moscow campus, providing a rare opportunity to hear firsthand about his experiences and showcase different aspects of science diplomacy in action. University of Idaho President C. Scott Green will deliver opening remarks. [Event details](#) available here.

Connecting Science, Policy and Local Perspectives: Oct. 10-11, 2019



The McClure Center is pleased to join the [University of Idaho Rangeland Center](#) as a partner in the 2019 Rangeland Fall Forum. Now in its sixth year, the fall forum is designed to inspire stakeholders, such as ranchers, state and federal agency staff, researchers, journalists and community members and invigorate

conversations around science-based solutions for the range.

Lynn Scarlett, The Nature Conservancy's Vice President for Policy and Government Relations will deliver the keynote address. Rocky Barker, longtime environmental reporter, will share closing remarks.

[Event details](#) available here.

This year, the [Owyhee Initiative](#) celebrates its tenth anniversary. To recognize this achievement, the fall forum is taking a closer look at collaborative land management: what works, what doesn't, and where science fits. Over the past 12 months, the McClure Center has been partnering with the Owyhee Initiative board of directors to perform an evaluation of the Owyhee Initiative past, present and future. We conducted over 30 interviews and research, which will culminate in a written assessment.

Returning in October 2019...Policy Pub

Policy Pub returns to Boise in October 2019. Details coming soon!

New Staff

The McClure Center is thrilled to announce the arrival of two new staff, Christi Stone and Gina Whitney.

Christi Stone, marketing and communications manager, is a proud two-time Vandal who received an MBA in strategic communication from Gonzaga University. Christi is based in Moscow, and spends part of her time supporting the University of Idaho College of Science. Christi will support McClure Center outreach efforts, including social media engagement, event publicity, press relations and marketing – all critical for the McClure Center to reach new audiences.



Christi Stone, marketing and communications manager

Expansion of the McClure Center team is a direct result of the current capital campaign. A generous donor's unrestricted gift allowed the McClure Center to create an entirely new position in an area of high strategic priority. Gina Whitney, grants and research associate, earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Idaho and an MFA in creative writing from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Gina is based in Boise, and will lead grant funding efforts for the McClure Center, as well as engage in research and provide writing support for the *Idaho at a Glance* policy brief series and full-length research publications.



Gina Whitney, grants and research associate

[Learn more about Christi and Gina](#) here.

Thank you for your continued support of the McClure Center for Public Policy Research. Your financial contribution ensures citizens and decision makers have access to accurate, nonpartisan, evidence-based research on challenges facing Idaho, the nation and the world. Your gift not only makes a difference, it makes a significant, lasting impact.

The McClure Center is in an ambitious \$3 million capital campaign.

To donate, [visit the McClure Center's website](#) or contact me at 208-364-4549.

Warmest regards,

Katherine Himes, Ph.D.

*Director, The James A. and Louise McClure Center for
Public Policy Research*

Based in Boise, the University of Idaho's James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research conducts nonpartisan public policy research, informs public dialogue and policy and engages students in learning about public policymaking. The Center's approach to addressing society's complex issues sustains Senator McClure's legacy of thoughtfully pursuing bipartisan collaboration and sound public policy.